

II. AMENDMENT

A. Specification

Please replace the following paragraphs:

[0011] Referring to the drawings, shown in Fig. 1 is a load-bearing member such as a stick 100 of a work machine (not shown) having an end portion 103. A pair of implements comprising, for exemplary purposes herein, a first implement or a bucket 112, and a second implement or a thumb 115, is pivotally attached in proximity to the end portion 103 of the stick 100 by means of a pin 118. A linkage assembly 121 is pivotally attached to the thumb 115 by means of a pin 124 and is pivotally attached to the stick 100 by means of a pin 127. Also shown is an implement-positioning device, such as a hydraulic cylinder 130, having ~~an aperture 131 and~~ a rod end 133 pivotally attached to the linkage assembly 121 by means of a pin 139 such that the hydraulic cylinder 130 is operably attached to the thumb 115 for adjustably controlling the movement of the thumb 115. In addition, the hydraulic cylinder 130 has a cylinder end 136 pivotally attached to an attachment device 142 of the present embodiment by means of a pin 145. Although the implement-positioning device is shown herein as a hydraulic cylinder, the implement-positioning device may comprise other arrangements such as a strut, a tube, a bar, or other device.

[0016] Referring further to Fig. 2, the at least one separation device 210 of the present embodiment includes a plurality of wedges, denoted as 212, having an end

portion 213 and a plurality of mechanical fasteners, such as bolts 215 and nuts 216, each bolt 215 having an end portion~~217~~. The nut 216 is sized so as to engage the end portion 217 of the bolt 215. Further, each wedge 212 is locatable between the base member 206 and the stick 100 for adjusting the distance between the cylinder end 136 of the hydraulic cylinder 130 and the stick 100. For exemplary purposes herein, four wedges 212 and four bolts 215 and nuts 216 are shown being utilized with the embodiment described herein. It should be understood, however, that any number of wedges 212 and bolts 215 and nuts 216 could be used to achieve similar results. Additionally, it should be understood that the separation device 210 or any portion thereof, including the wedge 212 that may be set on top of another wedge 212, could be attached to the base member 206.

[0022] In the first embodiment depicted in Fig. 1, the base member 166 is locatable at preselected locations along the stick 100 thereby allowing for different attachment locations of the hydraulic cylinder 130 to the stick 100. In order to reposition the base member 166, the bolts 163 are loosened and removed; the base member 166 is repositioned to a desired location, and then bolted in place by bolts 163. The hydraulic cylinder 130 is then pivotally attached to the attachment means 178 by concentrically aligning the aperture ~~131~~ of the hydraulic cylinder 130 with the aperture 184 of the flanges 181, 182 and inserting the pin 145 therethrough.

[0023] To reposition the base member 206 in the alternative embodiment depicted in Fig. 2, the bolts 256 ~~236~~ on the clamps 239, 240 are removed and the

clamps 239, 240, wedges 212, and the base member 206 are repositioned to the desired location. The top portions 242, 243 of the clamps 239, 240 are positioned on the side edges 266, 268 of the bottom plate 265 and the bottom portions 245, 246 of the clamps 239, 240 are positioned on the top surface 207 of the base member 206. The wedges 212 are positioned between the base member 206 and the stick 100, adjacent the clamps 239, 240. Once the wedges 212 are in position, the appropriate thickness is set by applying pressure to the end portion 213 of the wedge 212 by threading the bolts 215 on the nuts 216 so that end portions ~~217~~ of the bolts 215 are drawn through the nuts 216. This will cause the wedges 212 to be drawn together to increase their thickness to create the required normal force so as to prevent the base member 206 from slipping. The bolts 256 are then placed through the apertures 250 in the clamps 239, 240 and are threaded into aperture 233 in the wedges 212 tightening further the attachment device 200 to the stick 100. The hydraulic cylinder 130 is then pivotally attached to the attachment means 178 described previously with respect to the previous embodiment. As should be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in such art, the provision of the clamps 239, 240 and wedges 212 allows for vertical and lateral adjustability of the attachment point of the hydraulic cylinder 130 to the stick 100. This embodiment allows the attachment arrangement 200 to be removed from the stick 100 when needed by removing the bolts 256 and removing the clamps 239, 240, the wedges 212, and the base member 206.